

CLAIMS

What is Claimed Is:

1. A method for providing an interface for accessing home devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:
 - generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies home devices that are currently connected to the home network;
 - 5 creating a device link page, wherein the device link page contains a device button that is associated with each home device that is identified in the device link file;
 - associating a hyper-text link with each device button, wherein the hyper-text link provides a link to an HTML page that is contained on the home device that is associated with the device button; and
 - 10 displaying the device link page on a browser based home device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a device link file includes the steps of:
 - detecting that a home device is connected to the home network;
 - associating a logical device name with the home device; and
 - 5 storing the logical device name in the device link file.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:
 - retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
 - storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
 - 5 converting the logical device name to a device button.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:
 - retrieving a device ICON image from a home device;
 - creating a device button based on the device ICON image; and
 - 5 storing the device button in the device link page.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

- retrieving a device LOGO image from a home device;
- creating a manufacturer device button based on the device LOGO image; and
- storing the manufacturer device button in the device link page.

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6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of associating a hyper-text link with each device button, includes the steps of:

- retrieving a URL from a home device, wherein the URL is maintained in a properties file associated with the home device; and
- associating the URL with the device button that is associated with the home device.

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7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of storing the manufacturer device button in the device link page includes the step of storing the manufacturer device button in a user definable area of the device link page.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of retrieving the URL from the home device includes the steps of retrieving the URL from a properties file that is stored on the home device.